

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5042

To amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO COVER EXPENSES OF PRIMARY**
4 **AND SECONDARY SCHOOLING OF DEPEND-**
5 **ENTS OF FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL IN**
6 **PUERTO RICO.**

7 Section 202 of the Department of Agriculture Or-
8 ganic Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 554b) is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “(a) PROVISION OF MEDICAL
2 CARE; RELATED TRANSPORTATION.—” before “Ap-
3 propriations for the Forest Service”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(b) COVERAGE OF DEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EX-
7 PENSES IN PUERTO RICO; RELATED TRANSPORTATION.—

8 (1) Appropriations for the Forest Service shall be available
9 to the Secretary of Agriculture to cover the cost of pri-
10 mary and secondary schooling of dependents of Forest
11 Service personnel, who are stationed in Puerto Rico and
12 are subject to transfer and reassignment to other locations
13 in the United States, but not to exceed the costs author-
14 ized by the Department of Defense for the same area for
15 dependents of members of the Armed Forces, when it is
16 determined by the Secretary that the schools available in
17 the area of Puerto Rico in which the dependents reside
18 are unable to provide adequately for the education of the
19 dependents.

20 “(2) If the Secretary determines that the school at-
21 tended by a dependent described in paragraph (1) is not
22 accessible by public means of transportation on a regular
23 basis, the Secretary may provide, out of funds appro-
24 priated for the Forest Service, for the transportation of

- 1 the dependent between the school and the place of resi-
- 2 dence of the dependent.”.

